

FALL 2014

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

INFORMING SALEM COUNTY RESIDENTS



Salem County Government strives to provide our citizens the highest quality services possible in a timely and courteous manner. To achieve this goal our government must operate efficiently with comprehensive short and long term planning. We work to achieve balance between fiscal responsibility and an accessible, responsive County government that truly serves our residents.

County Realizes Economic Growth



NFI- Five Below Ground-breaking



Siegfried-USA Ribbon Cutting

Businesses are investing in Salem County! This year's economic development expansions are clearly a sign of upward growth for Salem County. Not only are current businesses expanding but new businesses are coming to our area. Businesses realize the opportunity to be successful in Salem County. They see the affordable land values, the excellent interstate highway connections, and the abundant labor force. Economic expansion is great news for Salem County residents. This expansion will create an array of employment opportunities while stabilizing property taxes for property owners.

The Freeholders congratulate the following businesses who are expanding and the new businesses that are investing in Salem County:

- Siegfried Chemical Expansion (Pennsville)
- J.E. Berkowitz Warehouse Expansion (Oldmans)
- Niblock's Pork Store Expansion (Quinton)
- Mullica Hill Freezer Storage Expansion (Oldmans)
- McLane Trucking Expansion (Carneys Point)
- NFI- Five Below Ground Breaking for East Coast Distribution Facility (Oldmans)
- DayTop Adolescent Drug Treatment Facility (Pittsgrove)
- Dunkin' Donuts (Pennsville)



"The Freeholder Board and the Salem County Improvement Authority have been working hard this year to come up with a comprehensive economic development program. This coordinated effort and hard work is evident through the current growth and expansion we are now seeing in the County."

Bob Vanderslice, Freeholder

CONTACT US

We Want to Hear From You!

As our newsletter name reflects... we are "Open to the Public" and we want your input.

Attend Workshops & Regular Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wed. of every month (except summer months). Visit our website for times and location at SalemCountyNJ.gov.

 **"Like" our page (Salem County Government) on Facebook to follow us.**

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STANDING: Freeholders Ben Laury, Bruce Bobbitt, Bob Vanderslice, Deputy Director Dale Cross **SEATED:** Freeholder Lee Ware, Director Julie Acton & Freeholder Beth Timberman

Shared Services.... a Win-Win Situation for All

In our continuing efforts to streamline processes and efficiently utilize the County resources, many shared services arrangements have been established, saving the County millions of dollars this year. We continue to look for opportunities for other shared services. These agreements are a win-win situation and they have a positive effect on everyone.

The County participates in over 20 different types of shared service agreements. The services are shared between municipalities and between counties. This sharing of services saves money and reduces taxes on both the County and local/municipal level.

Here are some examples of the shared services programs in which the County is involved:

County Shared Services:

Gloucester County – Youth Sheltering, Public Health Officer, Mental Health Administrator, Medical Examiner, and Social Rehab Officer and Housing Inmates at Salem County Correctional Facility.

Camden County – Reciprocal agreement to share specialized equipment during time of repair/calibration.

Cumberland County – Detention Center to house Salem County Juveniles.

Municipal Shared Services:

- All Municipalities utilize the County for Public Health Practice Standards.
- Salem County Vo-Tech Services District offers basic skills training for the inmates in the SC Correctional Facility.
- Share of resources with municipalities to resurface parking lots, salt storage, and lawn maintenance.



"We continue to search for opportunities to share services and cut County expenses without compromising services provided to County residents."

Julie Acton, Freeholder Director

911 Enhancements Create Top Quality Emergency Response

The Public Safety Telecommunicators (PSTs), commonly known as dispatchers, continue to strive to improve their performance through continued education. The members are ready to deliver the most accurate medical information to aid a caller in distress until appropriate medical technicians arrive at their location.

Training has also included "Customer Service" training and "Supervision" training. Both courses were sponsored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO). The customer service course offered advanced strategies to meet and exceed customer expectations.

In addition to educational training, the renovation project for the 911 communication center is quickly nearing completion. The room renovations to both the Fire/EMS dispatch room and police dispatch room began in January. New additions to both rooms included upgraded computers, new Telex radio consoles, and the installation of the ergonomic Xybiz furniture systems. This state of the art console equipment will enhance personnel performance and provide the best possible service for our citizens.

The Freeholder Board has approved the purchase of an upgrade for the current Ztron 911 Phone system. The county is moving closer to approving the purchase of a multi-jurisdictional Computer Aided Dispatch System that will benefit all emergency service agencies. Our goal is to enhance both of these communications systems to ensure that the best possible emergency response is afforded to all citizens.



"The renovation project was overdue and a much needed improvement. It ensures PSTs are afforded the best environment to perform critical functions 24 hours/7 days a week. Our mission is to deliver the best 911 emergency service to anyone who calls."

Dale Cross, Freeholder Deputy Director

SPOTLIGHT ... Annette Devitt, 4H Agent for Salem County



Annette Devitt is the 4-H Agent for Salem County. As the County Agent, Annette coordinates Salem County's 4-H program which is the youth component of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. In Salem County, the 4-H club program involves 375 members in 24 clubs. 4-H project work includes raising animals, arts and crafts, shooting sports, and leadership. Approximately 50 dedicated adult volunteers give of their time and knowledge to guide youth through the 4-H program.

The goal of the 4-H program is to provide youth in kindergarten through the year after high school with life skills they need to be competent, caring, contributing adults. Their projects are the primary means of learning skills like responsibility, goal-setting, decision making, and record keeping. Youth also learn public speaking and participate in community service projects. Leadership development is also important as youth

serve as officers and teen leaders for their clubs.

Annette, along with 4-H Program Assistant, Lisa Perry, coordinates the recruitment of both youth and volunteers. They train and provide support for the volunteers; coordinate county-wide events like the Public Presentations Contest; and coordinate educational programs to support the learning experiences of youth and adults. At the state level, Annette has been a key contributor to the statewide Get Moving – Get Healthy with New Jersey 4-H program. Contact Annette at 856-769-0090.



SPOTLIGHT ... Dottie Davis, Office of Aging



Dottie Davis is the "face and voice" of the Office of Aging within the Department of Health and Human Services. When you stop in the office or call, she is usually the first one you will talk to. Along with her general duties of directing people to the right staffer, she maintains client contact files and tracks inventory.

Dottie also is certified by the state to counsel Salem County residents about the insurance market place and Medicare. She helps the public navigate the ever-changing policies and programs and answers questions about benefits, claims, Medigap, drug plans, long-term care, beneficiaries, HMO's, PPOs, and the other alphabet plans. Dottie does not provide legal advice, sell, or recommend specific insurance products or companies. She is just there to help.

For example, she counsels DuPont and other retirees who lost health insurance and now need to find a third party provider within their benefit dollar threshold. She also helps people select the right Medicare drug plan by examining their drug needs and the policy regarding Medicare exclusions. Additionally, she reviews denied claims and helps get them amended for payment where possible. Most importantly to the public – Dottie has a "unique identifier code" and a "hotline" number that she can call to reach the right person in Medicare to get information with less waiting time. She and another certified counselor in the office handle up to 40 customer help calls each month. Contact Dottie at 856-339-8622.

FLU SHOT SCHEDULE *Free to Salem County residents 3 yrs & older.*

DAYTIME CLINICS

Sept. 29, 2014, 10:00 AM – 2 PM
Vehicle Drive-Thru Clinic, Salem Co.
Fair Grounds, Rt. 40 Woodstown

Oct. 14, 2014, 10:00 AM – 2 PM
Salem County Community College,
460 Hollywood Ave., Carney's Point

Oct. 21, 2014, 10:00 AM – 2 PM
Fraternal Order of Police
693 South Broadway, Pennsville

EVENING CLINICS

Sept. 30, 2014, 4PM–7PM
Schalick High School
718 Centerton Rd, Pittsgrove

Oct. 6, 2014, 4PM–7PM
Elmer Grange at Pole Tavern Circle,
535 Daretown Rd, Daretown

Oct. 28, 2014, 4PM–7PM
Salem Co. Dept of Health & Human
Services, 110 5th St., Ste 400, Salem

Veterans Corner

Thank you to the local Rotary Clubs for donating the flags at the Veterans Cemetery!

Upcoming Events:

Veterans' Outreach will be held on November 6th, 9:30 AM until 1 PM at Salem Community College. Over 23 vendors will be on hand to assist and provide information to our Salem County Veterans. <http://www.salemcountynj.gov/departments/veterans-services/>

Service Medal Ceremony will be held on November 13th at 6:00 PM. Veterans and families should arrive earlier at the Salem Community College. The ceremony was created to express the County's gratitude by honoring its residents who served on active duty with any branch of our regular active armed forces and were separated under "Honorable Conditions."

Interested Veterans or families may complete a service medal application found on the county website: <http://www.salemcountynj.gov/departments/veterans-services/>



"I am humbled by the sacrifices of our veterans and their dedication to our Country. They have served us; it is our honor to serve them."

Bruce Bobbitt, Freeholder

Public Works

Maintaining our County infrastructure is an important and ongoing endeavor. Below are a few projects currently underway.

Salem County Vo-Tech Water Tower:

The Salem County Freeholder Board entered into an agreement with Corrosion Control Corp. to repair and repaint the 21 year old Salem County Vo-Tech water tower.

The venture includes the repairs, parts replacement, and cosmetic refreshing to rehabilitate the water tower. The project is to be completed within the next month.

Willow Grove Dam: The dam embankment must be protected from erosion by flood water overtopping the dam. Rehabilitation of the spillways is needed to improve capacity to pass the flood spillway design.

Under the direction of Freeholder Ben Laury and the staff of Public Works, the project is being constructed in two phases, the Cumberland County phase and the Salem County phase. Salem County has received funding approval for 80% of the project costs through the Federal Highway Administration. Construction is expected to take 10 months to complete.

Avis Mill Lake: The Salem County Freeholders have entered into an agreement with RE Pierson to excavate silt/sediment from the lake bed of Avis Mill Lake, a County owned park.



Salem County Vo-Tech Water Tower



"Our County Public Works Department provides many of the basic services that affect the daily lives of everyone who lives, works, and plays in Salem County. We take that responsibility very seriously."

Ben Laury, Freeholder

Did You Know....

The county maintains three recreational parks purchased through the Green Acres program. Our county parks maintain open space and improve the quality of life for our residents. The parks are open from dawn to dusk for residents' recreational use. For groups and sports use a request must be submitted to the County Facilities Office and a Hold Harmless Form must be completed prior to use. No Alcoholic Beverages are permitted. For more information contact: 856-935-7510, Ext. 8223.

Camp Crockett County Park

Avis Mill Road, Pilesgrove Township. This park includes child activity sets, covered pavilion, and porta-potties. This park was dedicated in August, 1992. Hours: 8 AM to Dusk.



Salem County Recreation Park

Corner of Perkintown Road and Route 130, Oldmans Township. This park is often used for baseball leagues. Recently the Salem Department of Health and Human Services and Freeholder Board received funds through a state-wide initiative to create a walking path.



Fenwick Grove Park

51 Cheney Road, Pilesgrove Township. This is a wooded park area located adjacent to the Ware Agricultural Building.



"Having these County parks not only improves the quality of life for our residents, they also maintain open space."

Lee Ware, Freeholder

Salem County One-Stop Career Center

Are you looking for a job? The Salem County Career Center is the place to start. One-Stop Career Centers offer services (free of charge) to help you develop the skills needed to succeed in a 21st century work environment.

Salem County's One-Stop Career Center is a demand-driven community service aimed at helping local citizens obtain viable employment. Workers are given information, advice, and employment counseling along with assistance in searching for jobs. Training is available for industries that are high in demand.

In addition to providing assistance, we offer on-site resources to help with your job search.

On-Site Resources:

- Public access computer
- Public access fax
- Public access copy machine
- Other public access equipment

Business Services:

- Bonding - federal or fidelity
- Business Resource Centers
- On-the-job training reimbursement
- Recruitment & screening
- Staff-assisted recruitment

Salem County citizens seeking employment are encouraged to visit the center Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM at 174 E. Broadway in Salem. To find out if you qualify, contact the center at 856-351-2200.



"The One-Stop Career Center is an invaluable service to the community which residents can use to obtain and keep jobs. In turn, this helps support the local economy."

Beth Timberman, Freeholder

County Completes a Successful Audit

The 2013 annual financial statement audit was completed in June by the County Auditors, The Mercadien Group. The County received an "unmodified opinion", which is the highest audit opinion possible. The County was able to correct all four of the Financial Statement Findings reported the previous year.

The clean audit was a result of the hard work of the Treasurer's Department, in conjunction with the cooperation of all County Departments. The audit ensures uniform accounting, budgeting, and financial reporting by the County government.

The 2013 audit report also illustrates the County's improving financial status. The County's **surplus balance increased by over 2 million dollars** from 2012 and County net **debt**

decreased by almost 4 million dollars. The hard work that was put into creating financial stability allowed the County to **maintain a flat tax levy in 2013 and to reduce the tax levy in 2014.**



"We appreciate the dedication of our County CFO and staff who are devoted to improving the status of the county financial reporting. We are moving in the right direction and providing our residents with third party verification of responsible and honest use of public resources." Julie Acton, Freeholder Director

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